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SOUTH VIET NAM *In Struggle*

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ADDRESS :
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DAZIMINA HANOI
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and other South Viet Nam NFL Missions in foreign countries

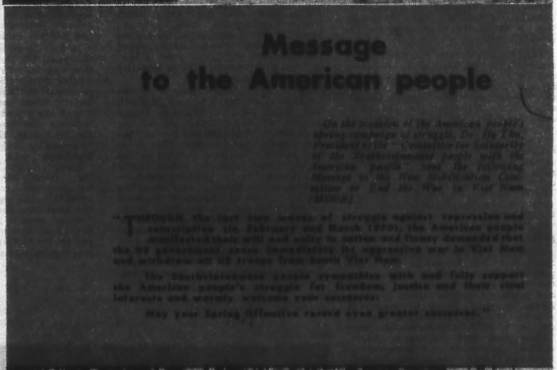
RSVN PRG Representation set up in Central Trung Bo

A Representation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has been set up in Central Trung Bo.

The nine-member Representation headed by Truong Cong Thuan includes 3 Vice-Chairmen and 5 members.

A ceremony was held on March 22 in the liberated zone in Central Trung Bo for the public appearance of the Representation of RSVN PRG.

Representatives of the local population present at the ceremony pledged to closely unite around the RSVN PRG and its Representation and thoroughly carry out the People's Revolutionary government's line and policies.



* *In Autumn 1969, US youths toilet the bell 40,000 times for the souls of 40,000 US casualties in Viet Nam.*

* *Peace march in San Francisco.*

editorial

Full success to the US anti-war protesters!

THE tremors of the Moratorium Days had hardly died out, when the "Spring Offensive" started with the fruitful drive against the Chicago trial, followed up in mid-March by the anti-draft week. In this, the Southvietnamese people saw an unmistakable expression of the American youths and students' resolve not to be food for powder and not to be brutalized into murderers in South Viet Nam.

Initial gains have been scored: hundreds of registration and recruitment offices have had to close down because no draft-age young Americans reported, the Massachusetts Senate has passed a bill prohibiting participation of its citizens in any "undeclared war". The anti-draft week will be succeeded in April, MOBE has announced, by demonstrations staged under the battle cry: "Stop to taxes for the war expenditures."

(Continued on page 6)

BREAKING "PACIFICATION", "VIETNAMIZATION'S" BACKBONE

IN execution of "Pacification", the backbone of US "Vietnamization" in South Viet Nam, in spite of the necessity of concentrating forces to defend their important centres and last refuges, the US aggressors and the Saigon puppets have been forced to deploy a considerable strength : 60% — 70% of the puppet regular army, forty thousand "pacification" agents, hundreds of "civil guard" companies along with tens of thousands of police and "popular defence" men, not counting the spy groups called "Swan" or "Phoenix" which had been sent to the countryside for murders, kidnappings and spying against the patriotic forces.

In support of this effort, the US-puppets have over the past year been stepping up substantially bombings, shellings and sprayings of toxic chemicals against the population and all their sources of life. "The countryside has been the target of saturation bombings by US aircraft which has gradually turned it into uninhabitable and even deserted areas" (French magazine "*Le monde diplomatique*", December 1969). In the *New York Book Review* issued on January 1st, 1970, *Noah Chomsky*, a well-known American linguist said that the US was scheming "to create a massive exodus from the rural to urban areas" in order to reduce the number of grassroots supporters of the NFL. "To massacre the rural population in South Viet Nam and to force them to disperse is not an accidental outgrowth of war ; it is the tenet of the American strategy itself" (Noah Chomsky).

They have forcibly relocated a segment of the population in disguised concentration-camps called "camps of refugees from communist zones". But the results of their "pacification" effort have fallen far short of their expectations as the French magazine "*Le Monde diplomatique*" rightly remarked in December 1969 : "This (the relocation of the population in refugees' camps) does not mean that they take sides with an administration that can only survive thanks to war and terror". The *Washington Post* on December 20, 1969 reported that Nixon himself and his most trusted adviser Kissenger were very "skeptical" about reports on the progress of the "pacification" program.

Aware of the enemy's intention, the South Viet Nam liberation forces and people have been foiling step by step the "pacification" effort of the US and puppets. Guerilla warfare has been spreading with waves of concerted attacks throughout South Viet Nam as well as on each battlefield and penetrating deep into the enemy bases, military subsectors and headquarters to thwart enemy "pacification" operations right from their outset, while intercepting enemy reinforcements to the "pacification" teams, and providing effective support for the population to rise up, punish the cruel agents, break the enemy's grip and regain control of their hamlets and villages. "No town or hamlet have remained immune to communist attacks" ("*Washington Evening Star* — Dec. 28, 1969).

In the *Mekong delta*, as early as the end of autumn 1969 the US-puppet command had to field Brigade B then Brigade A of the puppet strategic reserve in the embattled areas of Rach Gia and Ben Tre to "dig in" there and mount successive operations in support of the "pacification campaign" in the hope of improving the situation. Yet, so far the puppet marines have been unable to make any significant headway, instead have sustained three major blows (November 6, 1969, January 22, 1970 and January 24, 1970).

In their counter-offensives against the "pacification" teams and their support forces, the PLAF in Rach Gia and Ben Tre have wiped out over 2,400 enemy troops or agents (including a lieutenant-colonel battalion commander two majore deputy battalion commanders, one captain and three US "advisors" killed, and a brigade deputy commander seriously wounded). Besides, the PLAF sank or damaged 15 war vessels, destroyed 5 cannon,overran both headquarters of Brigades A and B, as well as the HQ of Battalion 6 and six companies, the HQ of the 14th river fleet of the puppet Navy, the "Quai Dieu" battalion (a pet unit of Nguyen Van Thieu) and its artillery position. At the same time, they inflicted heavy losses on the second battalion of the puppet marine Brigade A.

Along with these hard blows at the puppet marines, the PLAF main-force units in Ben Tre, My Tho, Rach Gia, Ca Mau, Tra Vinh and Can Tho also closely combined action with the regional forces and guerillas in pushing up guerilla warfare, striking repeatedly at various strongholds, fighting off many "sweeps" in support of the "pacification" operations conducted by puppet divisions 7, 9 and 21, devastatingly rushed a number of military posts held by the "civil guard" and "popular defence" forces.

The most significant event in February this year was the foiling by the liberation forces and people in Rach Gia — Can Tho of many adverse operations of all sizes. Within the ten days ended March 17, the PLAF in Ca Mau and Rach Gia provinces disabled in the U Minh area over 1,000 enemy troops, knocking down completely one battalion and 4 companies, decimating one regiment and one brigade of puppet marines. They also shot down 4 helicopters, and captured a large quantity of arms and munitions.

The *Nam Bo delta* boasted by the US-puppets as the only area in South Viet Nam without American troops and as an experimental ground for large-scale "Vietnamization" of the war, has been all the time the field divisions and the strategic reserves of the puppet army forced to spread thinly and depleted by the guerillas who have been chopping them up after encircling them. "*Newsweek*" magazine reported on February 9, 1970 that right in the Mekong delta considered a prime target for "pacification", the government (puppet) positions have begun to fall. The guerillas have regained their strength of 1963 and government (puppet) troops seemed to avoid contact... The 21st division is facing a serious problem of desertion".

Meanwhile, the population from the *Tri-Thien-Hue to the plains of Central Trung Bo and the Central Highlands* continued to stage wave after wave of uprisings bitterly disputing every inch of land with the enemy, shattering the puppet administration chunk by chunk, punishing the cruel agents, informers and spies, firmly exercising their right as masters of the land in many areas, and creating conditions for continual development of guerilla warfare. On these battlefronts, the guerilla war in the first month of 1970 put out of action 13,000 enemy troops. In February, as they were no longer in a position to carry out widespread "pacification", the US and puppets had to launch small scale actions in the plains adjacent to the towns and hellitt commandos to attack the mountainous regions. In the flush of the successes obtained early this spring, the liberation forces in *Central and South Trung Bo* have been thwarting every "pacification" sweep of the enemy, inflicting many casualties and shooting down many aircraft. On the *High Plateaux*, the PLAF have made repeated thrusts into enemy rear bases in Kontum and Ban Me Thuot town, the 24th special military sector, the Vo Dinh military sector, the A-Rea airport and co-ordinated with the people in breaking the enemy's grip in Buon Ho. The *High Plateaux armed forces* also won major engagements on main communication arteries, destroying or damaging nearly 300 military vehicles.

In his inspection tour of Saigon early this year, US Defence Secretary Laird saw with his own eyes that his "accelerated pacification" plan was being frustrated by the patriotic forces who had breached the US-puppet defence line in many places. "Vietnamization" is facing the danger of complete failure. No wonder the Pentagon boss had to recognize that,the US and its Saigon henchmen still have to overcome "*knotty problems*", that they are facing "*terribly big problems*" and must be prepared to "*accept temporary setbacks*". The repeated blows dealt at the hard-core units of the US and the "elite" reserve forces of the puppets in the first three months of 1970 throughout the South Viet Nam battlefield have amply substiantiated his misgivings.

HOANG SON

Wounded GI's in "Pacification" operations helping each other escape.

Prostitution, Thieu's source of foreign currency

IT seems that for these henchmen of the American imperialists, the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique, there is no means too ignoble to make money.

In its Feb. 16 issue, the Saigon paper *Hoa Binh* wrote :

"On old saying runs : "Prostitutes sell their bodies to feed their mouths." Nowadays we can say that they sell their bodies to keep together the soul and body of a whole state (f.e. the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique *Ed.*). According to the Ministry of Social Affairs (puppet *Ed.*), there are about 300,000 prostitutes. If each of them earns 50 dollars a month, 300,000 earn 18,000,000 dollars a month. The state will have enough foreign currency ! It will be on its feet thanks to prostitution."

As a result, many shops in Saigon have disappeared to give place to dancing bars, night clubs and brothels.

Scores of hotels have been mushrooming at Vung Tau sporting such alluring signboards as : "Paradise Hotel", "To-night, great sex entertainment. Please, come !"

Sex literature,or rather pornographic literature, is flourishing. Sex is in honour and celebrated therein."

The Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique allows a number foreign singers, bands and soloists to perform music which has a corruptive effect on the morality.

Prostitution, sex literature etc... are also attemps to deprave and emasculate various social segments, corrupt youths and turn them into ready cannon fodder in the American war of aggression in South Viet Nam.

But such moves have met with stiff opposition from the townsfolk. Even many "Saigon MP's" have been strongly critical of them.

On March 8, 1970, the Saigon musicians and singers demanded that measures should be taken to put an end to the propagation of immorality and the cult of sex by foreign singers.

Large sections of public opinion in the South Viet Nam cities hold that Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique has utterly aggravated the moral pollution of Saigon and other cities and urge its removal as the only way to terminate the present urban misery, depravity, gangsterism and anarchy.

From March 31 to April 3

PLAF'S GENERALIZED AND POWERFUL ATTACKS

ON March 31 night and within the first 3 days of April, the PLAF in South Viet Nam launched powerful artillery and ground attacks on over 240 US and puppet bases, positions, headquarters, storages, airfields, military ports, artillery sites, military training and "psywar" centres and more than 20 cities, provincial or district capitals from Tri-Thien-Hue to the Mekong delta.

From the night of March 31 to April 1st, the *Da Nang* airbase, the *Chu Lai*, *Cam Ranh* and *Quy Nhon* military ports were hit by many rounds of big guns and suffered heavy losses: 12 US and puppet army corps, division and brigade headquarters, including the Command of the US 2nd zone near *Qui Nhon*, the HQ of the US 1st Cavalry Division, the US 25th Infantry Division and the puppet 5th and 25th Divisions, the US "Special Forces".

In close coordination with the armed attacks, the local population rose up, destroyed many "strategic hamlets" and wiped out many cruel agents.

In *northern Quang Tri*, along Highway 9, south of the DMZ, the PLAF violently shelled many enemy HQs, bases, artillery sites and posts and decimated 4 US companies in Ho Khe area.

The US military spokesman in Saigon had to admit that from late March 31, 1970, 242 US and South Viet Nam (puppet) positions and bases had been attacked in all the four tactical zones.

A UPI correspondent in Saigon quoted the first military communique of the US-puppet command admitting that at least more than 600 US and puppet troops were killed or wounded last night including over 200 Americans.

Brig. Gen. William R. Bond, commander of the US Army's 199th Light Infantry Brigade, was shot dead on April 1st by the liberation fighters of Binh Tuy province, about 70 miles northwest of Saigon, western reports said. Bond was the 5th US general killed in the US war of aggression in Viet Nam, the same sources revealed.

In the night of 1st to 2nd April, about 100 positions of the US and puppet troops in South Viet Nam were hard hit by the PLAF, reported AFP quoting US and puppet military spokesman in Saigon. The targets included military positions, HQs and airbases.

The PLAF in *Tay Ninh* province attacked American troops of the 11th armoured regiment supported by aircraft and artillery, about 130 kilometres northwest of Saigon. The enemy suffered 156 American casualties.

Reporting on the PLAF attack on a US-puppet artillery site in Tay Ninh, *Reuter* on April 2, quoted a US military spokesman as saying "The Americans yesterday suffered their heaviest casualties in a single battle for nearly two years."

The morning of April 3, the PLAF again sent heavy gun shells crashing into many bases and positions of the US and puppet troops throughout South Viet Nam.

According to AFP on April 3, an American military spokesman in Saigon admitted that the PLAF had fired heavy guns on 60 targets throughout South Viet Nam. Among the targets were the town of *Chau Doc* in the Mekong delta, *Kontum* airfield in the *Central Highlands*, the Ben Het special forces camp, and a puppet unit based at Dong Ha..

Following the repeated attacks that had foiled many "pacification" raids since early this year, the above surprise blows which caused to the enemy many casualties and extensive material damage are firm proofs of the high determination of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people, their great endurance, high combativity and initiative of action. They also prove their better command and a close coordination of various battlefields. They constitute a close coordination with the movement to foil the US "pacification" plan now mounting high in many large rural areas. The recent attacks have shattered the US fallacies about the "stability" of its military situation and the "progress" of its "Vietnamization" plan. They also give the lie to the US claim that "the Viet Cong are no longer able to launch big attacks" and "were repelled back to the frontier".

Struck by the new thunder-like blows, the US aggressors are reacting madly. But nothing can take them out of their present defensive position. Instead, the more they struggle, the heavier defeats they will suffer.

PLAF ACTIVITIES on March

IN commemoration of the Anti-US Aggression Day (March 19), the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces mounted unremitting attacks in all theatres throughout March. While making deep thrusts into the enemy's hinterland bases, the PLAF fiercely countered their attempts to fan out their "pacification" actions, pushed up guerrilla warfare on the periphery of urban centres, and violently struck at land and river communications.

HINTERLAND BASES UNDER FIRE

With a view to an effective execution of the 'clear and hold' tactics to best realize the 'pacification' program, American and puppet troops, on the one hand, strove to consolidate their bases in populated areas, towns and townships that they want to build into solid enclaves. On the other hand, they made frequent sorties to provide a cover for "pacification" work. In March, however, they had to cope with the PLAF deep thrusts which resulted in the destruction of many garrisons, military subsectors and armed forces.

In Eastern Nam Bo, US infantry and mechanized units fell back into their enclaves or erected combined entrenched positions, using armour as shock detachments. With all their fire power they could not improve their defensive posture. American air cavalry units and puppet airborne and ranger battalions encountered repeated heavy blows: well over 1,000 men were wiped out, 80 planes (mostly helicopters) brought down, 110 vehicles (mostly tanks and APCs) destroyed. In the first week of the month the PLAF in Tay Ninh province put out of commission 61 vehicles of the 11th Armoured Regiment. At the same time they attacked some 30 positions in the provincial capital, among which 3 of the 18th puppet division knocking down more than 400 men, wrecking 24 APCs, blasting about a 100 blockhouses, underground shelters and barrack buildings.

In Trung Bo and Tay Nguyen, most successful PLAF actions are the following:

— 2,000 soldiers in the first three weeks of March on the Quang Nam—Da Nang theatre, particularly in Thanh Binh and Que Son districts.

— 900 enemy soldiers (260 Americans) and 30 vehicles put out of action in Binh Thuan and Lam Dong provinces.

— 350 troops knocked out in an offensive against the military subsectors of Doa Duong and Dinh An, and a rescueing force in the Qui Nhon—Cam Ranh area intercepted, which resulted in more than 100 casualties among officers, technical personnel and pilots.

— 400 troops (100 Americans) disabled north of Quang Tri (between Doc Mieu and Cua Viet); 400 American paratroops wiped out at A-La and Chia Voi (Quang Nam). All told, in March the number of enemy casualties in the Quang Tri—Thua Thien—Hue theatre amounted to 1,500, including 500 GIs.

— A toll of about 1,000 adverse troops at the Arou (Kontum) and Dong Ba Tin (Pleiku), in differents areas of Tay Nguyen, and in several the Central Trung Bo coast. During ports along the first two weeks of March, in Binh Dinh province alone, regional troops assailed or shelled 87 targets, killed 900 (300 Americans) sank a 15,000-ton vessel and burnt 10 million litres of petrol.

In the Nam Bo plain, on the night of March 2 the PLAF assaulted the Phuoc Long military subsector (Soc Trang) and intercepted reinforcements, knocking out 5 companies, 3 artillery and police platoons, and causing heavy losses to 2 battalions of the puppet 32nd Regiment, 21st Division. In addition, Liberation regional troops and guerillas blotted out several isolated garrisons in the Mekong delta.

COMMUNICATIONS HARASSED

The enemy heavily guarded communications to preserve their mobility, supply facilities and especially the possibility of supporting "pacification" work. All their efforts however were unable to prevent the destruction of convoys, the

Snipers lying in wait

sealing off of supply routes and other difficulties.

— Highway No 19 from Binh Dinh to Pleiku was target of uninterrupted PLAF strikes. From March 16 to 21, 51 vehicles were destroyed. Once in a single day Liberation troops struck six times and put 26 cars out of action. The puppet 47th Regiment which was sent on a rescueing mission to Tay Nguyen received a shattering blow when moving on Highway No 19: 30 vehicles were wrecked and about 100 men deserted.

— Highway No 25 in Ba Ria province was repeatedly cut off. A repairing detachment was hard hit on March 17 and had 24 vehicles including several bulldozers put out of commission. The same day on provincial road No 4 Tay Ninh, an enemy force intercepted by the PLAF near Dong Pan took to flight, leaving behind 4 wrecked cars.

— Highway No 3, Binh Tuy, and Highway No 4 in the Mekong delta, were a choice target for regional troops and guerrillas who throughout March knocked out a dozen military vehicles and entire companies of security forces.

— On such river communications as those linking Dong Ha to Cua Viet, North Quang Tri, and Long Tau to Dong Tranh, Eastern Nam Bo as well as in the intricate river network of the Mekong delta not less than ten military transports were set on fire or sent to the bottom, worthy of note is the sinking of some 12,000 to 15,000-ton tankers in Nha Be and Qui Nhon harbours and the burning of 10,000 cargoes on Dong Tranh and Long Tau rivers.

— On the other hand, the PLAF shot down well over 100 planes. On top of the list were the PLAF of the Quang Tri—Thua Thien—Hue theatre who, according to still uncomplete datas, are credited with the destruction of 25 aircraft. Since the start of the year, Liberation troops on this front have brought down as many as 117, 60 of them by infantry weapons, and 30 downed on the spot.

So, in March, the PLAF still kept the initiative on all battlefields, wiped out a substantial amount of enemy manpower and materiel, foiled many "pacification" operations and intensified guerrilla warfare.

LENIN'S 100th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS UNDER ACTIVE PREPARATION

ANSWERING the call of the NFL Central Committee and Executive Committees of Liberation organizations, people throughout South Viet Nam are enthusiastically preparing for the commemoration of the great Lenin's 100th birth anniversary.

Under the watchword 'Let's strengthen the entire people's unity and resolve to fight and win against the US aggressors', feverish efforts are being made in all branches to score achievements in the fighting, in production and study to mark in a practical fashion the anniversary of the teacher of the world revolution and also the 80th birthday of the late President Ho Chi Minh, the great leader of the Vietnamese people.

Instructions have been given by mass organizations to their respective lower levels to organize a drive for the study of the life and work of V.I. Lenin, of his role in the national-liberation movement. Among the works used to this effect is Ho Chi Minh's on Lenin published by the Liberation Publishing House; others, in French and by and on Lenin published by the Soviet NOVOSTI, such as *On the problem of nationalities*, *On proletarian culture*, *Recits sur Lenine* and *Né dans la tempête* are widely distributed in many areas.

A film on Lenin is nearing completion while the editorial boards of newspapers and other periodicals are preparing for special issues in April. An ebullient emulation drive is under way at the Tran Phu Printing Plant for the fulfilment of its plan on this occasion.

The Handicraft Art Worshop apart from lacquers, is producing in series backed-clay insignias – all of them bearing Lenin's effigy. Lenin's portraits are also produced by painters for exhibition halls and newspapers. A competition known as "South Vietnamese children are grateful to the great Lenin" has been launched by the Children's Painting Class for drawing exercises on the same subject. A number of sculptors will soon complete a statue of the great leader, due to be displayed at a large gathering on his anniversary.

At the same time, the Department for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, are preparing several photograph sets on Lenin's and Ho Chi Minh's revolutionary activities. These photographs will be distributed in different areas. In many liberated districts and villages information halls decorated on the occasion are turned into exhibition or reading rooms with books on Lenin. Roving Projection teams are already on the way to show films on Lenin and Ho Chi Minh to people in contested and occupied areas.

University riposte : a hard blow at Thieu and the US

TOWARD the end of March, over 30,000 students of fourteen faculties, colleges and technical schools launched a fierce drive under varied forms of action against the Saigon administration's fascist policy and for the release of forty of their mates. Among the arbitrarily arrested students was Huynh Tan Man, acting President of the Students' Union and President of the Medical Faculty Students' Association.

University and middle-school students held emergency meetings to devise resistance measures, among which the sending of representatives to confront the authorities, and parades before the National Assembly building.

On March 27 a general strike broke out, which was to last until April 2. The day before, several students' leaders went on a three-day hunger strike followed, two days later, by a similar action by representatives of seventeen faculties and colleges in front of the Lower House building.

Reuter (March 20) described the strikes and other stronger actions as indications of growing student opposition to the Thieu government.

The students' "Committee of Struggle sent a protest letter to Nguyen Van Thieu, warning him not to force them to take more energetic steps (*Reuter* March 31).

The drive, now in full swing, has won the support of the students' parents and teachers, of intellectuals, religious figures and wide segments of the working people whose spokesmen had stated their readiness to back it until complete success. The Association of Students' Parents, the lecturers' Council and Regent of the College of Sciences, the Buddhist Women's Association (of the An Quang faction), the Buddhist Students' Organization, the press "Committee of Struggle" and other organizations issued declarations and adopted resolutions denouncing the Thieu-Ky-Khiem regime's terror and suppression of the liberty of students. Buddhist circles in Saigon has set up a committee to provide the latter moral and material support.

Significantly enough, Professor Le Chanh Trung exposed the arrests as a mean trick of the Saigon authorities. Writing in the paper *Tin Sang*, he pointed out that "this 'crime' of the students was uncovered just after the State had suffered a loss of face in the confrontation with the press", and when "it had to cope with widespread and fierce opposition from the students".

In sympathy with the campaign in Saigon, students of university departments in Hue, Dalat and Can Tho are preparing for a general strike.

The current unrest and its momentous repercussions testify to the strong feeling of the South Vietnamese urban population against the US scheme to prolong the aggressive war under the 'Vietnamization' label.

Describing the situation which called for an immediate settlement, *Tin Sang* (March 12) wrote: "We cannot tolerate a South Viet Nam at the Americans' beck and call. We do not want to hear anti-communist braggadocio which tries to cover up sordid corruption. We do not want to see traitors tread on the necks of the Vietnamese people... The situation is grave. If we are not brave enough to raise our voices and act, sooner or later we shall have to bear the consequences of our passivity. So we must act for the good of the nation; it is a necessity and it is what the younger generations are expecting from us."

After the protest of 38,000 students of eleven university departments late last year, the current drive in Saigon marks a new and vigorous advance of the student movement in the occupied zone.

Alarmed by this widespread protest of various social strata among whom the students play the role of a detonator, the US and puppet authorities are resorting to every crafty manœuvre. Radio Saigon (March 25) announced that representatives of the Thieu government had given, before a Lower House committee, "explanations" of the arrest and detention of the students, that "dossiers were being rapidly completed for a trial". It denied the use of torture and asserted the authorities had only carried out interrogations, with regard to intellectuals". On March 28, in the morning, in an unusual political setting, the Ministry of Information held a press conference to explain away the fascist measures of the puppet administration. But an AFP dispatch of the same day reported that "the press conference attended by the Saigon police chief did not furnish the explanations wanted by the students".

The arrest on March 30 of twelve more students who were "observing a fast in front of the Saigon Parliament building aroused indignation among a number of MPs present on the spot. One of them stated, "We cannot tolerate breaches of constitutional and individual freedoms, the objective of our struggle being democracy".

The acts of terror of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem administration are exasperating the anger of the student community and all social strata in Saigon and other South-vietnamese urban centres. The aggregate strength of their movement, and of the workers' and the patriots' efforts will surely foil all US-puppet dark schemes.

In the footsteps of Lenin

I came to the Soviet Union, for the first time, in October 1965. It had started snowing in Moscow. Winter's first snow was cresting the Kremlin's red walls. Behind Lenin's Mausoleum, the green fir trees extended their branches to receive the white fleece. The sky was low. More flakes of snow fell on the Red Square.

And in the biting wind, the streams of people coming from all parts of the world to pay homage to Lenin lengthened every minute. I mingled with them, a pious pilgrim.

*

LENIN. It is hard to say whether I have met him or not. I first "met" him some thirty years ago, when still a small schoolboy with a close-cropped head, when a pot-bellied Frenchman was still lording it over in my province.

I saw his photo in a newspaper. I cut it out and kept it a text-book together with those of De Tham, Phan Chu Trinh and Phan Boi Chau (Vietnamese patriots — Ed.) One day, my teacher discovered it. He did not say anything, just quietly looked at me.

When the class was over, he beckoned me to come. "You know," he said. "On this planet where we're living there's a country called Russia, tens of thousands of miles from ours. In that country, there's no unemployment, and the people are the master, peasants owning the land, workers owning factories, and all children going to the school. It is the country of Lenin."

He said many other things which I did not understand.

I remembered very well, however, the last words he said to me when, with one arm around my shoulders, he walked with me to the gate:

"Put that picture away. If it's discovered, the French will arrest you."

And he was arrested not long after that. The police broke into the classroom and dragged him away. I can now picture vividly the last words he wrote on the black-board:

With no love for your own country.

You're inferior to insects.

With no sense of unity,

You rank below ants and bees.

Lenin's photo and the image of my teacher have left a deep impression on my mind and followed me ever since on the road I have taken. I seem to meet him everywhere, not in newspapers, in the hand-printed booklets of the "Marxist Study group" in Cochinchina or in theoretical books published in Paris, but in the offshore prison of Poulo Condor, in the Plain of Reeds battlefield, in the grim look of the guerillas in Cu Chi district or on the High Plateaux. Yes, it is Lenin. He is here, too, not only in Russia. He is omnipresent, in the heart of every man. He is life itself, pulsating life. He is the struggle, ebullient struggle He has brougt light to each back street, each hamlet of my country.

AND what a great joy it was for me to meet Lenin in his own country, exactly half a century after the birth of this first democracy of the world.

Lenin's country is vibrant with a martial song, the song of labour. One day I saw a photo showing Lenin doing lumber work with young Soviets on one of the communist Saturdays. This reminded me of the visit I had made to the oil city on the Caspian Sea, some one hundred kilometres from Baku. Soviet citizens from every part of the country had came there to drill into the bed of the sea and build some one thousand oil-wells, in one of the great works of mankind in this century. Their work began with as much difficulty as Lenin had met with in his first days. They took along a few mothballed ships which they heaved on top of submerged reefs to live in. They also built a small house the size of Lenin's hut in his underground days. Nineteen years have gone by, and a floating city has emerged from nothingness now. The five thousand workers in this oil city lived in great comfort. Dozens of kilometres of causeway linked the oilwells, and workers to went to work on buses. At night the city was brilliantly lit up. The many hospitals, picture-houses, clubs, stores and restaurants made the life there not less busy than on the mainland.

When our ship was being berthed, I could hear from the public address system on the shore: "Little sister from the South", a very popular poem by To Huu, and then the song "Liberation of South Viet Nam."

News from far-off South Viet Nam was brought daily to this part of the Caspian Sea, where Soviet citizens had many times raised their clenched fists urging that the US quit Viet Nam. Their support for Viet Nam, indeed, was selfless. They would do everything to extract from the sea more petrol for Viet Nam.

A few years ago, the US imperialists had sought ways and means to destroy petrol depots in North Viet Nam. They had had, however, to pay very dear for their temerity, because the people of North Viet Nam had made it a point to preserve each drop of oil as if it were their own blood. Knowing this stiff resistance in North Viet Nam, and knowing the importance of gasoline to the arduous fight in South Viet Nam, one could see better what good those Soviet citizens in the Caspian Sea were doing to their motherland and to fighting Viet Nam.

I visited on a fishing commune in the Baltic, near Riga. It was named after Lenin, and its members set a splendid example of fearlessness, and complete devotion to national construction. They had started with very little, a few small boats; but nothing could deter them. By the time of my visit, they had had a complete fleet of forty-five vessels. They even went as far as the western side of the Atlantic, and their round voyages would last half a year.

"We do this with great pleasure, because this is socialism," Mikhail Petzer, President of the commune, told me. He went with me to see Fedes who, despite his 65 years, still tilled the sea as vigorously as any young men.

"A man cannot know the value of life if he doesn't work," the old man said. "We used to have wooden boats, but since we're men of steel, we have steel ships now."

And he went on: "We know that the Vietnamese people are fighting valiantly. We, too, had to fight. We believe that the people of Viet Nam will win. Our hearts are with our heroic friends there."

Lenin taking part in a "Communist Saturday" in the Kremlin

(Sketch by N.N. JOUKOV)

HUYNH VAN LY

(To be continued)

Full success to the US anti-war . . .

(Continued from page 1)

LIKE in the previous actions, the White House and the Pentagon are again the targets. This appears to us to be an inevitable reaction of the Americans who have been also the casualties of the aggressive policy of the US administration, from one president to another. Their anger has been exasperated by more than a year of double-dealing at the conference table and of stepped up fury on the battlefield. The "end the war in six months" campaign pledge has not only not been honoured, but the carnage has even been pursued with redoubled violence. Under the "Vietnamization" plan, and in implementation of the "Guam doctrine", it is likely to go on, with native and Asian troops instead of GI's and to spread to the whole of Indochina. Hostilities have been raging fiercer in Laos, where more Thailand forces have been committed, and bombings, including B52 strikes, have been intensified. The incessant harassment of Cambodia's borders culminated recently in the Lon Nol - Matak - Cheng Heng coup against Samdech Norodom Sihanouk. There is no doubt that it was master-minded and financed by the US imperialists. The new junta has been ruthlessly cracking down on Khmer patriots, confirming its attempt to drive a wedge between the Vietnamese and the Khmer peoples. Under the pretext of "hot pursuit in self-defence" US and Saigon troops have crossed the SVN-Cambodia frontier, bombed and rocketed many places inside Cambodian territory and inflicting numerous civilian casualties.

Such developments which have made confusion worse confounded prove that Mr Nixon's "Guam doctrine" is the symptom of attempts of the war and use of Asians to fight Asians. It is a trick to deceive the American people and to avoid complying with their legitimate demand for an end to the aggression against Viet Nam and immediate withdrawal of US troops from there. It diametrically runs counter of US interests. But if with his new policy, the US President is pouring oil on the flame of the war, he is also incensing the anger of the American and world peoples.

WE are deeply aware that the Americans, who have inherited the American nation's love for independence, freedom, peace and justice, regard it as a duty to protest their own government's brutal policy of aggression. They certainly do not want their boys to become killers and to get killed in a dehumanizing war in South Viet Nam or anywhere else. They have no desire to pay increasing taxes to support over half a million US troops and over 700,000 mercenaries who daily indulge in mass slayings of civilians in South Viet Nam and other parts of Indochina. They are undoubtedly eager to restore lustre to the damaged US image. They have at heart peace, prosperity, happiness and universal friendship. It is these ideals which have been since 1961 winning over to the anti-war movement growing numbers of people from all walks of life. Wave after wave, each inspired by a given watchword, it has been bringing every facet of the US administration's aggressive policy under fire. Popular will has been made plain: immediate withdrawal of all US troops, an end to US atrocities, no more taxes to defray war expenditures and fitten the bomb accounts of hardcore tycoons. It is sheer common sense that to put an end to the crimes of genocide of which various US administrations have been guilty in Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, to the calamities they have been unleashing on US families, it suffices to eradicate the source of evils: the US war of aggression. The South Vietnamese therefore consider the Americans' effort to this effect to be a patriotic one exalted by lofty internationalism, which undeniably enjoys the support of all progressive mankind.

Naturally Mr Nixon and his government have been resorting to every possible evasive, repressive and terror measures against these forces of peace. The Chicago trial was one of them, where it turned out that the men in the dock were the US President and his cabinet themselves. The success of the articulate American advocates of justice and peace and international concord in this confrontation has given the go-ahead to the April offensive.

FOR the South Vietnamese, the "Spring Offensive" is highly significant and valuable in many a respect: an action staged in perfect coordination with their own military and political effort, a powerful inspiration, a second front right behind the lines of US aggressive imperialism, a gesture of friendship, an endeavour which continues the Washington, Lincoln and Jefferson tradition. It can remain assured of the blessings and best wishes of the people of South Viet Nam who do not entertain the slightest doubt about its certain triumph, their own final victory and the ultimate defeat of US aggressive imperialism, the common enemy of the South Vietnamese and the Americans and of progressive humanity as well.

SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE

From Son My and Ba Lang An to the heart of Europe

IT was in the thick of winter, from Son My and Ba Lang An where mass murders had been perpetrated by the American aggressors, that Vo Thi Lien and Pham Thi Lien visited the capitals of Europe: Moscow, Berlin, Budapest, Sofia, Stockholm, Paris, Oslo, Copenhagen, Helsinki, Bonn and London.

Before the young visitors arrived at any city, people here had already heard of them. Then names had been mentioned in newspapers and posters, in scores of speeches, in a dozen press conferences, and on TV appearances. And the flag of the Republic of South Viet Nam appeared everywhere they went. Those who had never met them before simply called the Little Lien (Vo was twelve) or Big Lien (Pham was twenty). Both were offered beautiful bouquets. The hosts saw themselves to their meals and to every details in their clothing. In Paris as in Stockholm, in Moscow as at Frankfurk, they lavished attentions on Little and Big Lien, the attention of fathers and mothers, of brothers and sisters. How many times I heard affectionate words like these: "We want to replace the fathers, mothers and sisters Lien and all the children killed by the Americans in South Viet Nam"; "The Liens are only part of the picture of the current war in South Viet Nam. We promise them to do more so that they may live in peace and happiness. We demand that the United States Government stop all acts of aggression. There is but one solution: the Americans must withdraw all their troops from South Viet Nam". I now cannot remember who uttered those words, whether the Secretary of the Socialist youth of Hungary (KISZ), the Secretary of the Free German Youth (FOJ), or doctor Sarkander of West Berlin.

From right to left: Big Lien and little Lien with Mrs Le Thi Cao at a press conference

I can safely say that they truly expressed the feelings of all those we met.

Whenever bright eyes Little Lien stood up to speak, cameras would be directed at her. Without hesitation she said: "Aunties and Uncles, the American aggressors came to my country before I was born. They burnt houses, felled trees and destroyed orchards and schools. They killed my grand-parents and my teacher. I am a victim of their destruction as survivor of their massacres... I don't want to see any American soldier in my village. I want to go to school, to become a doctor to look after my friends and my countrymen. I thank you very much for your support to the people of South Viet Nam". Lien plain language, visibly, move those who listened to her. I saw women weep and others, with trembling hands, stroke her hair. I heard a great many say most touching words to Little and Big Lien; and about the South Vietnamese people, just as outcries of indignation: "Down with American imperialism", "American aggressors out of South Viet Nam".

People in eleven European capitals boiled with hatred against the aggressors of our country. They, who had fought Hitlerite occupation and condamned the Oradour and Lidice slaughters completely sympathized with the victims of Son My and Ba Lang An. Everyone realized what to do and earnestly wanted to do something, so as to contribute, together with our people, to staying the bloody hands of the aggressors. In any city the visit of Little and Big Lien provided the occasion for numerous gatherings, demonstrations, press conferences, newspaper articles, radio broadcasts television appearances and the distribution of thousands and thousands of leaflets expressing anger roused by the Son My and Ba Lang An massacres, and deep indignation against the Yankee invaders and their henchmen.

OUR visit has come to an end, and the two Liens gone back to their indomitable native places. There they will relate to their fellow-villagers what they have seen and heard about the manifestations of the sympathy and support of the people in eleven European capitals for our resistance for national salvation, manifestations which will leave indelibile memories, in the minds of us all. We will never forget the reception of Little and Big Lien at the Guest house of the west German Parliament in the presence of seven deputies of the ruling Social Democratic Party. We were the first citizens of Free South Viet Nam to get visas into the German Federal Republic, which was a success of progressive people over the fascist reactionary and pro-American forces there. With emotion MP Dietrich Sperling presented us with the last of twenty-four deputies signatures along with their 1,000 mark contribution to the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation. The list is a unquestionable proof of US growing isolation in the world, in the countries of its allies and among the political circles of these countries.

For several reasons we could not go in Italy, Canada, Ireland, Island and other places in response to the wish of our many friends there. It appears that we hear the words that they utter from the bottom of their hearts to express their anger against the Yankee aggressor, and their sympathy and support for fighting South Viet Nam.

We therefore fully agree with the appraisal of our visit in Europe by the Secretary General of the World Federation of Democratic Youths in a press Conference in Budapest (March, 6, 1969). He said: "We regard this trip of the Vietnamese Delegation as a great success. Success first and foremost for our Vietnamese friends, for the heroic struggle which has earned deep admiration at the same time as US crimes are condemned more sternly every day. Success also for all national Delegations which have prepared for this trip."

LE THI CAO

Representative of the Saigon-Cholon women's Union for Liberation, accompagnying the two VO THI LIEN *and* PHAM THI LIEN

RSVN Foreign Ministry spokesman statement on Cambodian coup makers' slanders

Following is the full text of the statement issued on April 2 by the spokesman of the RSVN Foreign Ministry concerning the Cambodian coup makers' slanders against the Vietnamese people:

THE US imperialists have for a long time now used every possible means to sabotage Cambodia's line of independence, peace and neutrality under the leadership of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodian Head of State. They and none other have acted in collusion with the Lon Nol — Sirik Matak reactionary clique in the coup d'état against Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and in slandering the Vietnamese people as "aggressors" against Cambodia. These crimes of theirs have touched off strong indignation among the Khmer people and the people of all parts of the world. On March 23, the legal Head of State of Cambodia issued a declaration calling upon the Khmer people to stand up and overthrow the traitors to save the country. The Khmer people of all strata including Buddhist monks, peasants, workers, youth, intellectuals, soldiers and officers etc. have responded to the call of Samdech Head of State. They have risen up in all provinces of Cambodia in firm opposition to the US imperialists and the Lon Nol — Sirik Matak reactionary clique and in support of Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, demanding the restoration of the line of independence, peace, neutrality as well as the friendship and solidarity among the Indochinese peoples. Heightened by the Khmer people's patriotic movement, the Lon Nol — Sirik Matak clique have resorted to ferocious repressing, opening fire indiscriminately at the demonstrators. On the other hand, they issued brazen slanders, saying that the Vietnamese "instigated" the demonstrations and even "invaded" Cambodia with military forces. This is a stock calumny often resorted to by the US imperialists and their henchmen in covering their crime of aggression and their treason, distorting the Khmer people's patriotic movement which is developing quickly and vigorously and deceiving the world public. By the afore-said campaign of slander and distortion, the US and the Lon Nol — Sirik Matak clique also want to conceal the US crime of aggression in Indochina. They have left no stone unturned to sow racial prejudices and hatred, first of all between the fraternal Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples, with a view to blurring the most basic problem to the Indochinese people which is to strengthen their solidarity in the struggle against the US imperialist aggressors, their common enemy. On the other hand, the coup makers in Cambodia have tried to veil their crimes of overt collusion with the Saigon puppet administration in opposing the sacred resistance waged by the South Vietnamese people.

The people and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam vehemently condemn that vicious design of the US and the coup makers in Cambodia and categorically reject their groundless allegations.

Nobody can distort the brilliant justice of the heroic struggles waged by the Vietnamese and Khmer peoples against US aggression, for national salvation. The US imperialists and their lackeys definitely can deceive nobody. Even the Western press had to acknowledge that the so-called "attacks by the Vietnamese against Cambodia" are only the uprisings of the Khmer people in support of Head of State Norodom Sihanouk.

The Southvietnamese people, under the leadership of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, are upholding the banner of resistance to the US imperialist aggressors and therefore winning the sympathy and support of the whole mankind. Proceeding from the fundamental principles of their struggle for independence and freedom, the Southvietnamese people have always respected the other peoples' independence and freedom. With regard to the Kingdom of Cambodia, the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has consistently and strictly followed the line of strengthening the bonds of friendship and good neighbourhood on the basis of the respect for Cambodia's independence, sovereignty, neutrality, and territorial integrity within her present borders and mutual respect and non interference in each other's internal affairs.

Those who are opposing the supreme interests of the Khmer people are none other, than the US imperialist, and the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak reactionaries who have frenziedly sabotaged the correct line of independence, peace and neutrality of Head of State Norodom Sihanouk.

The fraternal Khmer people, under the leadership of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodian Head of State, will surely shatter all the designs of aggression and treason of the US imperialists and their lackeys.

No schemes and acts of the US imperialists and their henchmen can break the friendship and solidarity between the Khmer and Vietnamese peoples."

The 5th Stockholm Conference on Viet Nam

HELD on March 28 with the participation of 326 delegates from 62 countries and of international organisations, the 5th Stockholm Conference on Viet Nam ended after three days of fruitful work.

Speaking at the opening session, Bertil Svahnstrom, President of the Organisation Committee of the Conference, emphasizcd that the Conference had vigorously impelled the movement of support to the Vietnamese people in the world.

The Chief of the NFL delegation, Dang Quang Minh delivered a speech in which he condemned the US aggressors for prolonging and intensifying the war in Viet Nam and perpetrating atrocious crimes against the Southvietnamese people. He reserved an important part of his speech for denouncing the American neo-colonialist designs in the "vietnamization" of the war.

He also affirmed the Southvietnamese people's unreserved support for the seven-point political solution put forward by the Lao Patriotic Front and the March 23 Declaration of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia calling on the Khmer people to fight against the US aggressors and their henchmen Lon Nol-Matak-Cheng Heng to preserve the Cambodia's independence and neutrality and her solidarity with the Vietnamese and Lao peoples in the struggle against the common enemy.

After the session, the delegates took part in discussions in various commissions and adopted a series of resolutions providing for:

1 — Increased material aid to Viet Nam.

2 — Establishment of an International Commission for Investigation of the US Imperialists Crimes in Viet Nam.

3 — Increased political support to Viet Nam.

At the end of the session, the Conference released an Appeal to the whole world which reads in part:

(...) "The Stockholm Conference calls on all national and international organizations throughout the world to demand the withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam by giving massive diffusion to its appeal, by vigorously condemning US crimes in Viet Nam and by developing actions of political support and material aid for the just struggle of the Vietnamese people for independence, freedom and genuine peace.

"To achieve this, the Conference recommends that there should be worked out in each country an action program in coordination with the anti-war movement in the US. In this way, powerful pressure will be created throughout the world, that will oblige the US government to respect the peace, independence and the right to self-determination of the Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian peoples. It recommends the broadly-based organization, continuing actions that will be coordinated and developed in each region, each country, each sector, according to the acquired conditions and the concrete problems to be posed.

"In this way, the desire will be achieved and peace will be win".

An ebullient anti-draft week throughout the USA

IN the third week of March, MOBE started a momentous drive all over the United States against the Nixon administration's drafting of youths for the Viet Nam war. Though of short duration, this second phase of the "Spring Offensive" marked a new advance of the US popular movement against the US aggressive war in our country.

It unfolded under diversified forms before the White House, the Capitol and draft and registration centres in Washington and all other large cities. By their activities during the week the American people unmistakably showed their outright disapproval of their government's stubbornness and craftiness in its aggression against Viet Nam.

In the federal capital, on March 18, over 500 women from different parts of the US — mothers and wives of American servicemen in South Viet Nam — demonstrated in front of the White House and the Congress building. They handed in to the US President a long declaration saying they did not tolerate that the warmongers in the White House and the Congress dominated their life and the life of their families. The following day, 600 young Americans lay a black coffin before a draft office some fifty yards from the White House and threw in their draft cards. A representative of the anti-draft organizing committee declared: the american peace-loving youth protest their induction and their use to suppress the freedom of other peoples and force them into adopting the american way of life. A demonstrator angrily shouted: We uphold the ideals exalted by those who have created the United States. However, these ideals have long since been jettisoned. We therefore say 'no' to enlistment into the army, the army of murderers and oppressors.

In New York, where dissent was most articulate, 96 registration and draft offices were closed down. Protesters marching a dozen miles distance converged there, displaying placards with the names of 800 youths killed in South Viet Nam since Nixon's inauguration, and the names of Vietnamese towns and villages destroyed by the US Air Force.

In Chicago, demonstrators tore to pieces their draft cards in front of conscription offices.

In Sacramento, California, World War II and Viet Nam war veterans carried a token coffin to the State Congress building and there they threw on it their medals to show their complete disapproval of US aggression in Viet Nam.

At Raleigh, North Corolina, parents of Americans of call-up age hurled plastic bags of blood at the union of draft offices to vent their indignation against their government's war crimes.

Under the pressure of such bitter popular feeling the House of Representatives of Massachusetts state, with an absolute majority, passed a law for the protection of the State's citizens who oppose conscription in protest against "undeclared wars". The panic-stricken authorities had closed down all registration and draft offices before a scheduled mass parade was staged.

A *Reuter* dispatch dated March 26 pointed out that these demonstrations which had erupted all over the United States interrupted registration and recruitment.

Leaders of the drive estimated the results of the anti-draft week, as "tremendous successes".

The American people's anti-draft offensive has been hitting at an important link in the US aggressors' plan to replenish their forces. Conducted in conjunction with the anti-war movement now developing in the army itself it has been generating substantial difficulties for the White House and the Pentagon.

This mounting dissent will not fail to bring Nixon home to the fact that his fascist-type measures, whose condensed expression could be found in the recent Chicago trial, cannot possibly halt the rising anti-war movement sweeping the United States. Mr. Dellinger, one of the leaders of the New Mobilizing Committee to End the War in Viet Nam, was pefectly right when he shouted at the judges at the said trial on February 20: By jailing us, you will not resolve the problems facing the United States. We may have to serve prison terms, but the anti-war movement of which we are just a small part, will continue to develop.

STRONG POPULAR OPPOSITION TO PRO-US ULTRA RIGHTIST LON NOL-MATAK JUNTA

IN Cambodia, what must be done is done. To those who are concerned with, and respect, the independence and neutrality of this country, the recent events came as no surprise.

Since the CIA-masterminded March 18 coup d'état, the extreme-rightist Lon Nol — Sirik Matak clique have been showing their true colours as imperialist stooges. They have proclaimed a state of emergency, abolished all democratic freedoms, and have been ruthlessly cracking down on patriots. They have let US planes freely bomb and strafe their country, winked at Nixon's permission to US troops to penetrate into Cambodian territory when need be. As a matter of fact, they have let US-puppet troops cross the South Viet Nam — Cambodia border and shell Cambodian villages, inflicting many losses in life and property on the Khmer people.

In this context, the Appeal for national salvation of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk has elicited warm response from the entire Khmer people possessed of a long-standing tradition of struggle against the US imperialists and their agents. Over the past days, the population in many places throughout the country have staged angry demonstration against the pro-American extreme rightist ruling clique. According to Western sources, this patriotic movement has erupted in nearly all provinces. In many fierce clashes, the people confronted the US henchmen, especially in Kompong Cham, Kampot, Svay Rieng, Prey Veng... Workers of rubber plantations at Prakech, Prech Kac, Chup... have gone on strike and staged armed demonstrations, brandishing rifles and spears.

AP reported that on March 20 hundreds of people carrying portraits of Head of State Norodom Sihanouk along with spears had paraded in the streets of Kompong Trabac (Prey Veng), demanding Sihanouk's return while the armed forces had set up barricades against them.

Also on March 29, the AP correspondent in Cambodia who had witnessed another demonstration, wrote that hundreds of youths from villages up to 64km south of Phnom Penh had demonstrated on the highway to Takeo, carrying Sihanouk's photographs and spears. The night before, they had smashed two official cars under the noses of the policemen from a station nearby.

In Kep, on the coast south of Cambodia, many demonstrations in support of Sihanouk have broken out.

After a visit to Kompong Cham, the UPI correspondent reported that on March 26, 27 and 28 thousands of pro-Sihanouk people have taken to the streets.

On March 26 the protestors struck at many government buildings. The town court of justice was burnt down and its roof collapsed. The governor's house lost all windows and its furniture was smashed.

On March 27, about 2,000 people attacked a government unit standing guard in a town square.

According to UPI, the newly-appointed governor has admitted that at one time up to 25,000 people had demonstrated.

Alarmed by the mounting popular hostility, the pro-American extreme-rightist in Cambodia has taken stringent security measures, mustering more soldiers and policemen against the popular actions. They have resorted to armoured cars and ordered the police to fire at the protesters, killing and wounding many of them. However, the people's feeling has been running higher and higher.

The Lon Nol—Matak clique has admitted their inability to bring the situation under control and Sirik Matak himself has stated that they are most pessimistic.

The pro-Sihanouk outbursts have not been unexpected. The Prince's past peace and neutrality line as well as his present national salvation policy have been endorsed by the Khmers as fully consistent with their aspirations and interests. With the widespread support and sympathy of progressive mankind, the Cambodian people's will movement certainly carry the day.

SAMDECH NORODOM SIHANOUK'S MESSAGE

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, on March 28, sent a message to Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, and Huynh Tan Phat, President of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam. Full text follows:

"IN the name of the Khmer people, the National United Front of Kampuchea and in my own name, I would like to ask the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the valiant fraternal people of South Viet Nam to accept our warmest thanks for your government's declaration of March 26, 1970, in which your Government and your people express full support for the March 23 declaration of the Head of Khmer State and for the struggle waged by the Khmer people in defence of their sacred national rights against the US imperialists and their lackeys, the Lon Nol — Sirik Matak clique in particular.

I extend fraternal thanks to Your Excellencies and the Republic of South Viet Nam for expressing once again in the March 26 declaration the lasting gratitude of the PRG of the RSVN and the people of South Viet Nam for the unreserved support and assistance rendered by the Khmer people and myself to their resistance to US aggression, and for reaffirming therein that your Government and your heroic people will spare no effort to strengthen the solidarity and the ties of friendship that has traditionally united our two peoples on the basis of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within each other's existing frontiers.

All the patriotic, progressive, anti-fascist and anti-imperialist Khmers and myself are pleased with the fact that the Phnom Penh coup d'état perpetrated by the corrupt reactionaries in the pay of the CIA of the US imperialists has forced us "manu militari" to abandon our neutralist passivity and made us join the ranks of the peoples fighting with arms in hand against imperialism and the renegades who, like Thieu-Ky and Lon Nol-Sirik Matak, are of our race but out of greed and personal ambition serve the interests of this imperialism to the detriment of the supreme interests of their own people and motherland.

We Khmers therefore fully agree with you in declaring that we will march hand in hand with the tfraternal Vietnamese and Laotian peoples, that we will support each other and give aid and assistance to each other, and that we will fight together against our common enemy and their lackeys, the renegades, till final victory."

• **USSR.** — The Soviet "Week of Solidarity with Viet Nam against the US aggressors" scored brilliants successes, according to the Giai-Phong Press Agency correspondent in Moscow. Under the motto "Solidarity with Viet Nam in Struggle" many meetings took place in Moscow, Kiew and elsewhere in the Soviet Union. School children sent letters, post-cards printed with Lenin's effigy, presents... to the Southvietnamese pioneers expressing their sympathy for our anti-US struggle for national salvation. Workers of the Moscow transport Company n° 24 did supplementary work, earning an overtime pay of 17,000 roubles, which they sent as gift to the Vietnamese people.

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Nixon's escalation in Laos

PATHET Lao News Agency reported that, in four days beginning March 17, the Americans brought three Thailand battalions to Long Cheng, a major base for bandit troops built by the US (southwest of the Plain of Jars and Xieng Khoang). In a dispatch of March 21, AP said that Thailand's army unit No 2 stationed in the Northeast were in charge of troop recruitment, and US commando officers, of training young Thailanders for the fighting in Laos. Recently the Americans sent a 155mm-gun unit to Pakxan, and at the same time mounted bombing and shelling, including B-52 raids against the liberated areas.

Are these actions to back Defence Secretary Laird's declaration on March 19 that should the situation in Laos call for it, the US would envisage the possibility of committing American combat troops to this country?

The turn of events has in fact become so serious that on March 21 the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee strongly denounced and condemned US escalation, as well as the above cynical statement by one of Nixon's closest associates.

Along with protracting the war in SVN and abetting and assisting Lon Nol and Matak and company in Cambodia, American acts of war in, and bellicose statements on, Laos once again throw an ominous light on Washington's escalation, extension and prolongation of the war in Indochina. They also gave lie to the US President's March 6 declaration on Laos. The introduction of Thailand troops into this country provided another illustration of the Nixon doctrine — using Asians to fight against Asians. Similarly, the US-masterminded coup d'état in Cambodia further exposed the aggressive scheme of American neo-colonialism in the Indochinese peninsula.

While world opinion warmly welcomes the Lao Patriotic Front's five-point solution and while American opinion strongly opposes the US government's expansion of the conflict in Laos, deliberate war escalation in this country shows the full measure of Nixon's obduracy. Such an attitude cannot but exasperate the indignation and protest of the American and world peoples.

By dragging out the war in SVN, repeatedly violating the sovereignty, and threatening the security of the DRVN, escalating hostilities in Laos and engineering a putsch in Cambodia, the US imperialists wanted to extricate themselves from their critical situation in South Viet Nam. The point, however, is whether, after suffering successive setbacks, they could stave off the serious consequences of further adventurous escalations and whether the Thailand ruling military junta, having sent troops into Laos on Washington's orders, could escape punishing blows. As far as the Lao people are concerned, there is no doubt they will inflict more humiliating reverses on the aggressors and their Thailand confederates.

DAI LIEN